



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Chicago Harbor, IL

Project Features

- Located on Lake Michigan in the city of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
- Authorization: The Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1870, 1880, 1912, 1919 and 1962.
- Controlling depths -29' in the Lake Michigan harbor approach, -28' in the outer harbor, and -21' between the Chicago Lock, into the Chicago River and northward to the North Avenue Turning Basin.
- This harbor is part of the Port of Chicago, the 32nd leading U.S. port and the 2nd largest on the Great Lakes. 74.8K tons were directly shipped or received from this harbor in 2005.
- 20,357 linear feet of timber crib, laid-up stone, and concrete caisson breakwater structures.
- The Federal channel within the harbor is 2.20 miles. The channel extends from the harbor up the Chicago River, to the North Avenue Turning Basin (4.02 miles).
- Chicago Lock completes over 11,500 lockages annually, passing over 40,000 vessels.
- The harbor hosts a USCG Station, Chicago Marine Police, and Illinois Conservation Police, Chicago Fire Dept.'s Fire Boat and City tug.

Project Needs

- The Federal channel is at authorized depths within the approach channel and river sections in line with and adjacent to the lock. No other dredging has been performed in 20 years.
- The northwestern breakwater is the harbor's primary shield. It is in poor condition, several crib sections have failed, and the loss of additional sections is anticipated. This is caused by dry rot in the timber cribs, which has resulted from the low lake water levels in recent years.
- The lock gates leak in violation of a US Supreme Court decree regarding Great Lakes' water diversion. All four gates have out-lived their design life (68 years in service) and are unreliable. Previously approved Federal funding for this work has been suspended indefinitely.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The Jardine Water Purification Plant is located in the harbor and serves nearly 5.0M consumers in 118 municipalities. It is the world's largest water treatment plant.
- The lock protects L. Michigan from draining away into the Mississippi River. It provides flood protection on the Chicago River for the downtown area, protecting \$1.40B in real estate.
- Navy Pier annually hosts 9.M visitors and generates nearly \$138M in sales. Its operation employs 700 full-time and 2,000 part-time workers. Over 100 private businesses operate there, employing at least 750 additional part- and full-time workers
- Tour and Charter Boat Operations – 20 companies operate 55 boats, and host approximately 370,000 passengers annually.
- Privately-owned marinas moor 1,450 recreational boats within the harbor.

Transportation Importance

- Commodities handled are general cargo, petroleum, newsprint, salt, and cement.
- The harbor is a safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for barges and vessels traveling north from or south to the Port of Chicago.
- Bulk commodities that pass through Chicago Harbor generate nearly \$1.1M annually in direct revenue, support 15 jobs, and generate \$549K per year in personal income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 2008 and 2009
Chicago Harbor, IL Project Needs and President's Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY07 Need	FY07 Work Plan	FY08 Need	FY08 Budget	FY09 Need	FY09 Budget*
Project Condition Surveys	80	0	80	80	90	
Lock Operations	1,497	1,497	1,575	1,575	1,695	
Routine Lock Maintenance	207	207	220	220	230	
West Lock Gates Replacement	7,000	0	8,000	0	8,500	
Northeast Breakwater Crib Stabilization and Repair - by Gov Floating Plant	1,600.	23	2,984	0	1,755	
TOTALS	10,384	1,727	12,859	1,875	12,270	

* FY09 President's Budget will be available in February 2008